

Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly's Human Services Committee  
In support of Senate Bill 284  
Public Hearing March 10, 2022

I am writing **in support of SB 284**, An Act Increasing the Age From Eight to Eighteen Years For an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status

My name is Barbara Edinberg and I live in Fairfield. **I strongly support SB 284** to expand HUSKY health coverage to income-eligible children up to age 18, regardless of immigration status.

**Health care is a human right.** It is critical that children have access to health care, including dental and mental health care. I thank the State Legislature for expanding HUSKY for undocumented children 0-8 last year. That was an important first step. But children should not lose their health coverage – and access to health care – on their eighth birthday. Access to health care is essential for children to grow into healthy adults. HUSKY must be extended to all children up to the age of 18 regardless of immigration status.

Health care significantly impacts a child's physical and emotional well-being. Children without health care are at risk of serious preventable conditions. Access to health care and health care coverage are both essential for good health outcomes. Research shows that without health care coverage, children face significant barriers to care and are likely to have unmet health needs.

Research also tells us that children do better when their parents have health care coverage. As a state, we need to work towards a long term solution to health care access and extend HUSKY to **all** Connecticut immigrants of any age, parents and adults. All children and adults in Connecticut must be able to access the health care they need if we are to ensure a healthy and strong Connecticut.

I support **SB 284 and expanding HUSKY coverage to income-eligible children 8-18 regardless of immigration status**. I urge the members of the Human Services Committee to support and pass this critically needed legislation this session. I also urge the Committee to work towards a long term solution to open access to HUSKY to all immigrants, regardless of age and immigrant status.

Thank you,  
Barbara S. Edinberg  
Fairfield, CT